

Remarks:

Applicants have carefully studied the final Examiner's Action mailed 03/02/2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire 06/02/2005, and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respond to the outstanding Action by centered headings and numbered paragraphs that correspond to the centered headings and paragraph numbering employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

Drawings

1. Applicants thank the Office for accepting the drawings received 12/13/2004.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 3-5 stand objected to because claim 3 depends from cancelled claim 2. Claim 3, as currently amended, now depends from claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

3. Applicants acknowledge the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

4. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ford. This ground of rejection is met by the current amendment to claim 1 because claim 1, currently amended, now recites that the novel bow entrains ambient air and directs said ambient air to the rigid concavity. As discussed in Amendment A, air supply device 58 of Ford is not mounted on the bow as claimed by Applicant. Air supply device 58 is either a fan or an air compressor as disclosed by Ford. It is mounted in the interior of the water craft as depicted and as such clearly teaches away from a bow-mounted air scoop as disclosed only by Applicants. Applicants' bow-mounted air scoop requires no electrical power as does the air supply device of Ford. Air supply device 58 has an unnumbered scoop as pointed out by the Office, but said scoop is not bow-mounted and clearly entrains ambient air in the interior of the water craft. Applicants thank the Office for reminding Applicants that the present invention was distinguished from Ford because Ford entrains internal air but claim 1 as first amended did not recite that Applicants' bow was adapted to entrain ambient air.

5. The cancellation of claim 2 in Amendment A renders moot the rejection of claim 2 in the current Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

6. Applicants acknowledge the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

7. Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested because claim 1 as currently amended clearly defines over Ford for the reason discussed in paragraph 4 above. Claim 7 depends from claim 1, currently amended, and is allowable as a matter of law upon the allowance of said claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 3-6 and 8-10 are indicated as being in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As currently amended, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance so that claims 3-10 dependent therefrom are also in said condition.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicants thank the Office for astutely pointing out that the argued subject matter relating to the entrainment of ambient air was not recited in claim 1. Claim 1 as currently amended now clearly defines patentably over Ford and all other references of record.

Conclusion

10. Applicants acknowledge that the outstanding Office Action is a final action.

11. If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicants' position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested. Applicants thank the Office for its careful examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

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Dated: March 9, 2005

pc: Commander Robert L. Wheeler, USN, retired
Mr. Walter Crowley

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment AF, including Introductory Comments, Amendments to the Claims and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Group Art Unit 3617, Attn: Mr. Andrew D. Wright, (703) 872-9327 on March 9, 2005.

Dated: March 9, 2005


Deborah Preza